



Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group

July 29th 2010
2.30 pm
YYCMG Office Perenjori

General Meeting - Minutes

1. Open General Meeting (Approx 2.30pm)

1.1. Attendance

Keith Carter, Jan Macpherson, Stacey Hudson, Dene Solomon, Max Hudson, Barrye Thompson, Peter Syme, Lizzie King, Laurie Butler

1.2. Apologies

Richard Lee, Jo Ashworth, Ian Fordyce, Shelley Spriggs

2. Minutes of previous General Meeting, held 30th April 2010

2.1. Amendments

No amendments

2.2. Matters Arising

No matters arising

2.3. Sign previous minutes if true and correct record (Chairperson)

Moved Max Hudson, 2nd Jan Macpherson that the minutes of the meeting held 30th April be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Carried 8/0

3. Executive Reports

3.1. Correspondence (SH)

3.1.1. Correspondence In

- Letters from Reliance Petroleum all dated 2/6/2010 informing us that the Reliance cards were due to expire on 31/5/2010, replacement cards and new pin numbers also sent out.
- Letter from the Australian Tax Office regarding changes in thresholds of rates for income tax withholding rates for employees, June 2010

3.1.2. Correspondence Out

- No correspondence out

3.2. Funding and Finance (SH)

3.2.1. Financial Reports – tabled

3.2.2. YYCMG – as at 27th July 2010, overall cash balance of \$85, 571

- Cheque account has a balance of \$32,850
- Enterprise account has a balance of \$13,445
- Gold cash management account has a balance of \$38,153
- YYCMG's balance of funds as at 27th July 2010 is \$26,531
- Jibberding LCDC received \$909 for hire of their tree planter
- Accounts receivable have nearly all been resolved; Stacey will need to resend some invoices. Max has not chased up Garcia, Mcwhirter or Stein. Baxters will not be paying. Marrone, Nadji Mia & Orlando have agreed to pay.
- Stacey would like to close unnecessary accounts as they now contain much lower funds, and this will be reduced again over the next 6 months. The interest being paid to YYCMG is very minimal and not worth keeping 3 bank accounts open.

Max Hudson moved motion, 2nd Jan Macpherson that the treasurer is given the authority to amalgamate accounts at her discretion.

Carried 8/0

3.2.3. YYCRC – as at 27th July 2010, overall cash balance of \$132,916

- Accounts payable of \$9,901 which is for PAYG tax, audit fees, super and to the ATO for GST.
- There are no accounts receivable
- The Regional Council has been given \$20,000 from NACC to be used for community engagement. Any suggestions or requests for use of these funds to be given to the Regional Council to consider.
- 1st payment of \$45,000 (ex GST) received from NACC for the NRMO's (1st July 2010 – 30th June 2011), \$200,000 will be received in total.

Moved Lizzie King, 2nd Dene Solomon that the financial statements for the YYCMG and the YYCRC be received.

Carried 8/0

4. Reports

4.1. YYCRC CEO report (BT) – tabled and read aloud (see attached)

- Minutes up until the 10th November 2009 have been bound as per requirements under the Local Government act.
- At the last meeting it was discussed whether the RC would be better suited to being run from one of the participating local governments. CEO to prepare a report to determine whether there would be financial benefits to the RC if this was the case.
- Still working on lease agreement and currently waiting to hear from Landgate
- Received part of funding from NACC for the period 1st July 2010 to 30th June 2011 (\$45,000) to deliver services requested under Caring for our country (NRMOs).
- RC invited by NACC to make submission in relation to the draft state NRM strategy (also tabled)
- Still delays in completing the audit of the 2008/9 finances, UHY Haines Norton have had the books since December 2009. Delays are due to confusion over changes in contracts and the name the invoices were made out to i.e. YYCMG or YYCRC. They want to ensure that double payments have not been made, and there is also some confusion over whether the drains should be classified as capital assets of the YYCRC.
- Have received no response from Ron White regarding a visit from Minister Burke's department, to meet with YYCRC to discuss salinity. Due to change in Prime Minister and calling of an election we will not get a reply, which is very unsatisfactory.

- Is clarification needed of who owns the drains? Max will look into this.
- Laurie asked if a shire council took on the RC work, what structure would it follow – it would still follow a local government structure.
- What will happen if the shires amalgamate (Perenjori/Morawa/Three Springs/Mingenew) – anticipated that their part of the RC would continue under the amalgamated council.

4.2. NRMO reports (DS & LK) – Lizzie's report, tabled (see attached)

- Incentives: Changes have been made removing the boundaries, so all landholders can apply for any of the incentives but still subject to a satisfactory site assessment. Oil mallee incentive is now a tree crop incentive, including oil mallees, sandalwood and brushwood, and rate has changed from 10c/seedling to \$250/ha.
- Jibberding community tree planting day was a great success. The DEC Environmental Community grant is now complete, just tidying up paperwork.
- Lotterywest arranging to come and photograph the Broombush project and are very keen to get farmers and YYCMG members involved. This is likely to be in September.
- NACC changes: Shelley Spriggs has taken on the position of permanent CEO. More staff have left
- Thanks from Jan to everybody who came along to the Jibberding planting day and helped out.

4.3. Max's report including WCA update (MH)

- Finished paid employment but have still been working on getting the final report finished with Lizzie
- Been away in Europe for 6 weeks
- Put in a submission to the Wheatbelt Development Commission for \$30,000 to put towards paying somebody to write the business case. Were successful in getting these funds. A number of the shires down south are now getting on board and donating some money. Also submitted an application to CBH for funds, including to do some work within the Stephen's lease area, this was rejected.
- Asked to write a case study by NACC as part of the State NRM review/draft strategy.

Moved Keith Carter, 2nd Jan Macpherson that reports from Barrye Thompson, Lizzie King, Dene Solomon and Max Hudson be received.

Carried 8/0

5. General Business

5.1. Microscope & Laptop sale to Ian Fordyce

- Ian offered a few hundred dollars to YYCMG for his laptop and would also like to buy the microscope. The YYCMG bought microscope for \$1,000 4 years ago.

Max Hudson moved motion, 2nd Jan Macpherson that we invoice Ian for \$990 (including GST) for the sale of both the laptop and the microscope.

Carried 8/0

Stacey to send an invoice to Ian.

5.2. Email Addresses

- Stacey has cancelled the iinet account at Kalannie.
- Ian sent information about unlimitedspace.com, which would allow us to have as many email addresses as we like for free, in the format name@yarrayarracatchment.org.au
- We are currently paying \$49.95/month to Telstra, \$29/month to Intelligent IP, plus an annual subscription to Westnet. Not entirely sure what these costs are for and if we could cancel any unnecessary ones. Stacey to follow this up.

5.3. 2010/11 invoices for drain maintenance need sending out

- Stacey to send invoices from YYCMG again, as still unable to do this through the YYCRC. Send them out around October.

5.4. Insurance for the drill rig and the truck

- Due in August. Agreed to renew them for 6 months.

5.5. Winding up of the Latham LCDC

- Contacted by Roger Forte, Chair of the LCDC regarding some funds that Latham LCDC have remaining that they don't want to send back to the government when they wind up, and are seeking an alternative option.

Max Hudson moves motion, 2nd Laurie Butler that Roger Forte contacts a nursery to order trees (and pay for them), to be planted within the East Latham area.

Carried 8/0

- Alternatively, all the LCDC's that have wound up, sent their remaining funds back, and the YYCMG was nominated as the entity to administer these funds.

5.6. Funding applications

5.6.1. CFOC Community Action Grants, funding round closes 31st August – ideas please

- Should we submit an application to do a demonstration site within the Stephen's lease area? Agreed, Max and Lizzie to put application together.

5.6.2. CFOC Broombush submission (open grants) – these have not been announced yet.

5.7. The NRMO role – new contracts, use of funds in interim, application process and pay scale

- The Regional Council still plan to employ 2fte NRMOs, one position may be split into two part time positions, or even only a part time position.
- Dene has approached a few people to see if they would be keen, there has been some interest.
- Advert in West Australian and local papers (Kalannie, Dally, Perenjori and will go in Morawa and Carnamah). No enquiries so far.
- Can the funds be used to employ other staff, e.g. doing some monitoring, help to write applications? Once the incentives have been delivered, the money can in effect be spent in other ways.

5.8. Website update

- Leave as is, with Chris to continue to do the updating and invoice as necessary

5.9. Progress of setting up lease agreements with landholders – discussed above in BT report.

5.10. Propose letter of thanks drafted to Trevor Johnson re contribution of \$990 to enterprise account from barley planted within the drainage line

- Stacey to write a letter of thanks to Trevor.

5.11. Nissan Navara Ute update

- The Navara needs to be fixed. Stacey to check which group currently covers the insurance. The Navara will be used by the new NRMO (as Lizzie's Hilux goes back at the beginning of September) so once the damage is fixed and insurance sorted, ownership needs to transfer to the YYCRC.

5.12. Stephen's Lease update

- Max has spoken to Brian Skipworth. In light of the dry season it may be just as well we have not planted this site with anything this year. Need to check if there are likely to be any issues with needing clearing permits as the land hasn't been cropped for 15 years, although it has been used for grazing within the last 10 years. Also follow up the Community Action Grants.

5.13. Magnetic Resources correspondence from Ian

- Magnetic Resources contacted Ian to see if YYCMG could help with clearing permits. Without Ian's expertise this is not a possibility. No action required.

6. Business without Notice

6.1. Ian's final report

- Was Ian producing a final report as a final analysis of what has been done on each drain? All (?) the data that has been produced has been put on the website for others to review, so in effect the data has been published. There is no written report as such.
- The problem is that the monitoring has not been going on for long enough to draw definitive conclusions on the effectiveness of the drains. Ideally we want to see if we can grow crops where previously they would not grow.
- We do need to draw some conclusions from the information that has been collected. We also need to look at exactly what is on the website, determine what is missing and if we need any more data can we arrange to meet with Ian to discuss putting something more together? Can we find some funds to pay for this? Who is to follow this up?

6.2. Two new owners of Baxter's and Parry's,

- The new owners of Baxter's (Chadwick's) and Parry's (Brennan's) need written notification of their liabilities in respect to the drains and drain maintenance fees. Barrye will sort this out with assistance from Max. They need a copy of the MOU and a list of what their obligations are. Max to get a copy of the MOU to Barrye.
Barrye to send contact details to Stacey so she can invoice them before October.

6.3. Request funds for trees

Dene Solomon moved motion, seconded Keith Carter that the YYCMG put \$100 towards trees to have to hand out at the regional shows.

Carried 8/0

6.4. Wheatbelt Catchment Alliance

- The WCA have successfully sourced \$40,000 to enable them to put a business case together to give to government. There is about \$15,000 left over which they plan to use to do a few case studies (including one in the YY catchment somewhere), which will involve meeting with farmers in an area that has not been drained yet, ideally the next priority catchment. The purpose is to get some agreement from the farmers involved of what they would be willing to contribute towards drainage. This data would feed into the business plan.
All agreed that Max goes ahead with this.

7. Close Meeting (5 pm)

7.1. Agenda items for next meeting

7.2. Next meeting will be in Perenjori, 28th October (AGM)

7.3. Close Meeting

I certify that this copy of the Minutes is a true and correct record of the meeting held on 29th July 2010.

Signed: _____
Chair of YYCMG

Date: _____